

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Archie Cole Middle School Cafetorium

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:10p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5 (a) (1) Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 4-0.

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Robert Durant, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Green, Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mrs. Susan Records. Mr. Paul Martin was absent. Also present were Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, and Mr. Carlos Zambrano, Director of Technology/Systems Analyst.

7:08p.m. Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair. Dr. Gifford welcomed the boy scouts' who were present in the audience.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for 6/5/12

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for 6/5/12.

IV. Recognitions

a. EGHS Unified Volleyball National Champions

Members of the team were acknowledged for winning the championship. The team was also recognized at the state house on the senate floor.

b. EGHS Boys' Spring Lacrosse Varsity –Division II Champions

The Boy's Lacrosse team was congratulated for a winning season and earning the state championship for a second year.

V. Superintendent's Report

The girls' varsity softball team will be recognized at the July School Committee meeting. Dr. Mercurio thanked the elementary and middle school staff for coordinating the moving-up ceremonies. He also thanked the PTGs for their support throughout the year. Dr. Mercurio thanked the entire faculty/staff, central office staff, administrators, parents, and students for a successful school year.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointment of Meadowbrook Principal

Dr. Mercurio thanked Dr. D'Acchioli for filling in as interim Meadowbrook Farms Principal

for the past five months. The Meadowbrook Farms position was posted with forty applicants applying from nine states and two countries. There were two preliminary rounds of interviews by the selection committee, a round by the Superintendent, and a final round by the School Committee. Dr. Mercurio recommends Mr. Neil Marcaccio for the position of Principal of Meadowbrook Farms. He added that Mr. Marcaccio has led two schools in Warwick and has a special education background. He has a tremendous repertoire of skills and worked in a district that was fully implemented in the teacher evaluation system. Mr. Marcaccio administered the teacher evaluation system in two schools and was highly successful. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 6-0 to appoint Mr. Neil Marcaccio as Principal of Meadowbrook Farms School. Mr. Marcaccio thanked Dr. Mercurio and the School Committee and enthusiastically addressed the audience. There will be a meet and greet for the Meadowbrook Farm community and staff on Friday, June 22, 2012 from 8:30-9:30a.m. in the Cole cafeteria.

b. Parental leave –Stacey Munzert

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the parental leave.

c. FY2013 budget

With the budget surplus over \$153,000, the FY0213 final budget is \$33,765,356. The additional funds are one-time revenue. Some budget items may be revisited due to the surplus.

No vote was taken as the Committee needs more information. The budget will be discussed at the July School Committee meeting.

d. School Resource Officer

Dr. Gifford noted this item is related to the budget and funding. The School Committee needs to discuss this position with the town as funding will be shared. This item will be discussed at the July School Committee meeting.

e. Approval of bid –technology equipment

The recommendation is to award the bid to Apple Inc. for thirty MacBook Pro and twelve I-Pads to refresh classroom computers at Hanaford and Frenchtown which have exceeded their life expectancy and are outdated. On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to award the bid to Apple, Inc. Mr. Durant asked which budget is the funding source FY2013 or 2012 and also if this purchase is square with our direction in technology. Dr. Mercurio noted it is from the FY2012 budget and this purchase is in line with the technology plan

VIII. Finance Committee FY2013 Recommendations

Mrs. June Fischer, Chair of the Finance Committee read the Finance Committee recommendations from the FY2013 budget process. The recommendations were broken down into two categories: Budgeting process and Budget planning. Dr. Gifford thanked Mrs. Fischer for her work and for leading the Finance Committee. All Finance

Committee members (Mr. Durant, Mr. Green, Mr. Mahadeven, Mr. Pieroni, Mr. Stocker, Mr. Miranda, and Mr. Van Winters) were also thanked for their work and support. Mrs. Fischer offered the Finance Committee's help to the School Committee whenever necessary. Mr. Durant explained how the budget process was a struggle because the Committee started two months late due to the problem of getting reports. The new Cole was also a challenge, but worked out well. Mr. Durant also explained if the Finance Committee had the year-to-date figures and sheets earlier; it would have made their job easier. Mrs. Records questioned who owns the licensing for the crystal reports (town or school). Mrs. Crawford explained the crystal reports are done through the town. Mrs. Fischer questioned if the resources could be put back to the school side since there are issues of control and access. Dr. Gifford explained the decision that was made to consolidate town/school finances. Dr. Gifford discussed the Finance Committee recommendation #1 and questioned whether those functions should be brought back to the school department especially since UCOA was mandated for all schools in Rhode Island. UCOA was implemented after the shift of finances from school to town. This has made it very challenging for reporting. Mr. Sommer also thanked the Finance Committee members for their work. He asked if the School Committee will rank the FC recommendations as they did last year. The Committee would also like feedback from Dr. Mercurio on the status of last year's recommendations. Dr. Gifford said the School Committee will follow the same ranking process as last year, reviewing each

recommendation over the next few months. She added that the Finance Committee has really evolved; with some members having longevity on the Committee. The group has become a very sophisticated resource for the School Committee.

IX. Athletic Director's End of Year Sports Report

Mr. Cobain handed out "EGHS/Cole Athletic Department Year in Review 2011-2012" which noted highlights, major accomplishments, projects for 2012-2013, and enrollment data for EGHS and Cole. Mr. Cobain reviewed the report and thanked the School Committee for their support. He also discussed the impact baseline testing program for concussions. Mrs. Records questioned whether the School Committee should have a district policy regarding concussions. Mr. Cobain would like to see policy as certain mandates lead to interpretation. Dr. Gifford thanked Mr. Cobain and discussed how the district could communicate baseline results back to the family so they can be available to their primary doctor.

X. First Read of Revised Policies

a. #2160 Transportation

Dr. Gifford explained that one of the primary responsibilities for the School Committee is to set policy. A policy sub-committee has been reviewing all policies to make sure they are up to date. When new issues arise, new policies may need to be drafted. Each policy draft receives a first read, second read, and then adoption. There is opportunity for public input during the first and second read of each policy. Mr. Green read through the revised transportation policy. He explained how transportation is a large part of the budget (5% of the

total budget). The Policy Committee looked at peer communities, best practice, and current practice to provide the most efficient transportation to and from school. Mr. Green noted that day care providers met with the Policy Committee recently to discuss the possible changes in transportation. The distance for “walkers” was not revised. Mr. Green stated that if the location of a home is unsafe for walkers, transportation may be available (i.e. Frenchtown Road). Transportation related to daycares will not take effect until the 2013-14 school year. Mr. Green also explained the issues that take place when there is inclement weather (i.e., students going to daycares that are closed, students being placed on the wrong bus, etc.) Mr. Green explained that East Greenwich is the only district that provides the current level of service which includes transportation from private schools to daycares. A pilot pre-registration process will begin in the 2012-13 school year. This pilot program will assess transportation needs to avoid bus overcrowding or scheduling a bus that is unnecessary. Some students are being transported to three different spots during the week. This policy will work to curtail this practice. Registration is not binding, but will hopefully benefit all by allocating resources only where needed.

Dr. Gifford gave members of the public time for input. Heather Tibbitts asked if future policies can show the “recommended changes” to the public. She also discussed the “five day” rule being a hardship for parents. Dr. Gifford asked if a student can be dropped

off at two different stops if using the same bus. Mr. Durant noted that should be okay since it's the same bus. Mrs. Tibbitts also asked about pairing start times for Meadowbrook/Frenchtown and Eldredge/Hanaford. Bill Sanders discussed his opposition to the daycare revisions in regards to cross districting and mandating a "five day" rule. Mr. Durant explained how the Policy Committee met with daycares and they were actually surprised the district still provides cross-district transportation. The daycares are also looking into the possibility of providing bussing by using Ocean State Transit. Dr. Gifford explained the safety issues with a constantly changing weekly schedule. The Committee met with the bus company and the principals, who explained how bussing is a significant challenge especially with small students and trying to keep track of their daycare schedules. Mr. Sanders noted that he spoke with the Frenchtown principal who said daycare is an issue. Judy Bacilli explained that she ran the YMCA at Meadowbrook for ten years and is surprised that East Greenwich still provides the level of bussing to daycares. She noted that other districts have busses provided by the YMCA to transport students to their daycare at no additional cost. She urged East Greenwich parents to look into this. Eileen Barber, Kent County YMCA Director was present and explained YMCA's goal to serve the public. She noted that the YMCA is catching up with issues that are impacting their daycare. Kate Goldman noted it would be helpful to have a map with bus routes on-line. She also asked if the clause that discusses "extraordinary circumstances" could be more specific and list the type of

circumstances. Mrs. Goldman also asked if the level of services from Ocean State can be reviewed before their contract is renewed. She discussed issues with late busses, no one available to answer the phone at Ocean State, and questioned if there is a policy noting what is expected of the bus driver. Dr. Gifford noted the district can't write policy for bus drivers as that is defined by the state and DCYF. Mr. Durant noted it would be beneficial to have one daycare bus that goes to all daycares. Dr. Gifford urged the daycares to contact the district regarding using our facilities for daycare. Mrs. June Fischer expressed her opinion regarding the policy and noted the responsibility needs to be shifted to the parent. Mr. David Page noted he originally thought the mileage part of the policy was an issue, but now sees this portion has not changed. He noted how refreshing it is to see people who care so much about their community. Mrs. Crawford added that if your child is moving up to another school, see if your neighbor walks or takes the bus. Mrs. Cheryl Osborne asked how the registration policy will be put into effect and how can the district be sure that everyone registers. Mr. Green stated the list serv will be used, the registration packet for new students will denote the policy, and the policy will be reiterated in the standard package that a parent receives prior to the opening of school. The upcoming year will pilot the new pre-registration program. A student will not be denied bus transportation if their parent does not complete the pre-registration. Mr. Durant encourages parents to register to give the bus company an accurate account of seats needed. Hopefully this will avoid three students to a seat. Dr. Gifford thanked all

members of the public for their input and noted the Committee still has more work to do. The policy will receive a second read on July 17, 2012.

b. #3310 Disposal of School Properties

Mrs. Crawford explained the need for the policy. Dr. Gifford would like #2 Procedure of Disposal to include, “of items meeting the above authorization.” This policy will receive a second read/adoption at the July 17, 2012 School Committee meeting.

c. #4140 Immunization and Testing for Communicable Diseases

Dr. Gifford explained the revision in the policy. The list of immunizations required was removed and it was noted the immunization needs to be consistent with the Department of Health requirements. Exemption from immunizations was clearly defined and the requirements noted. Mrs. Tibbitts asked about the number of people opting out of immunizations. Dr. Gifford noted the district keeps a log and can disclose the number of students, but not their names. The number of students opting out is increasing. The allowable exemptions are for medical and religious reasons. This policy will receive a second read on July 17, 2012.

XI. Discussion Items

a. Communication/Public Relation Subcommittee

b. Legal/Legislative Subcommittee

Mr. Durant made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to table these items due to Mr. Martin’s absence. Motion passed 6-0. Dr. Gifford noted sub-committee reports will be on School Committee agendas on a bi-monthly basis. The next reporting will be at the July

meeting.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Durant, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 9:19 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY